

Church Asks Rejection of Bush

By Norman Kempster
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The chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee said today that confirmation of George Bush as CIA director would "make a travesty out of our efforts to reform the CIA."

Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, said the CIA "will be no more independent and no more nonpolitical than its director."

Church appeared as the chief opposition witness to Bush's confirmation at hearings conducted by the Senate Armed Services Committee. Because Church's committee is a temporary one, the Armed Services panel has jurisdiction over the appointment.

IT SEEMS LIKELY that in spite of opposition from Church and from David Cohen, president of Common Cause, the committee is ready to vote speedy approval of President Ford's selection of Bush as the successor to William E. Colby.

Church said he considered Bush to be too political for the job because of his previous service as Republican national chairman.

But Church said he would mute his opposition if Bush were to announce that he would not accept the

Republican vice presidential nomination next year. In an appearance before the committee yesterday, Bush said he would not participate in politics but he refused to say he would decline a spot on the GOP national ticket.

"We expect too much of human nature if we don't recognize the compromising position into which the director is placed if he has dangled before him the promise of high political office," Church said.

CHURCH, who prior to the hearing assured Bush there was "nothing personal" in his opposition, said that although he considers Bush to be both honorable and honest, the appointment of a former party chairman would produce a very bad appearance and perception of efforts to reform the CIA.

Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, who is both a member of the Armed Services Committee and vice chairman of Church's committee, remarked that the intelligence committee has been criticized as being a springboard for Church's presidential ambitions.

"Would not our investigation have more credibility if you were to forswear any ambition to be Presi-

dent of the United States?" Tower asked.

"IF I BECOME a candidate for president, I would step down from the chairmanship of the committee," Church responded.

"Mr. Bush has said he would step down from the directorship of the CIA if he became a candidate for other office," Tower said.

"If the situations are comparable in your mind, I can't persuade you," Church replied.

The Idaho Democrat had said earlier that he would support Bush for a Cabinet post or for other primarily political offices but that the

CIA post should be divorced from politics.

Bush, Church said, would "grace the ticket" as GOP vice presidential nominee.

Cohen based Common Cause's opposition to Bush on the refusal of the former envoy to Peking to take himself out of the vice presidential picture.

"A CIA head who is ready to consider high elective office less than one year after his appointment will be perceived to service the short-term political needs of a sitting president rather than the duties of the agency and the best interests of the nation," Cohen said.